

she says, "never knew anything but church on Sunday and school on weekdays."

Having learned the importance of education early in her life, Letitia became a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Excelsior Township. Though she left this post to marry, farm, and raise three children, she never gave up her passion for teaching. Since retiring from the farm in 1970, Letitia has continued to pursue her love of teaching. As late as last year, Letitia spoke to students of the Okoboji Elementary School on two different occasions and offers weekly lessons to the students who deliver meals to her in her home.

A reliable champion of family, togetherness, and love, Letitia represents all that is good about the traditional American values that we in Iowa hold dear. On the occasion of Letitia Lawson's 110th birthday, I offer my congratulations and the best wishes from Congress.

AMERICA MUST RESIST TEMPTATION TO START A WAR WITH IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I know it is an election year, and I know President Bush's ratings are at an all-time low, and I know gas prices are very high and the people are restless. Nevertheless, I call upon my colleagues and the President to resist the temptation to start yet another war.

There is an old saying: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Well, friends, if we fall for the case being made to go to war against Iran, it will be "shame on us." And I define bombing from 40,000 feet as war.

Just as we did in the months leading up to the invasion of Iraq, a country which had no connection to 9/11 and no weapons of mass destruction, this administration intentionally confused us with regard to Iraq. It is doing the same with Iran. The administration says they want compliance with nuclear treaties but makes it clear that they really will settle for nothing less than regime change.

When I said before the Iraq war that I believed the President would be willing to mislead us into the war if he believed misleading us was necessary to fulfill his plans, I was excoriated, but I was right. I do not characterize the President's motives. I assume he took us into war in Iraq because he sincerely believed it was the right thing to do. We know now that he was wrong about that. The world is less safe. The Iraqis are in turmoil. More Americans have died in the President's plan in Iraq than died in New York City and at the Pentagon.

What the President did with our Iraq policy is being replicated with our Iran

policy. There was much to criticize about Saddam Hussein, and there is much to criticize about the ayatollahs and their front men in Iran. We have every right to demand that Iran adhere to its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to pursue sanctions and other penalties. What we do not have the right to do is to make it impossible for Iran to satisfy our demands without regime change.

When we started demanding regime change in Iraq instead of demanding compliance with U.N. inspectors, we put ourselves on the path to war in Iraq. We are on the same plan and the same path in Iran. We will not talk with the Iranian government, and we will not stop talking about overthrowing it. It is impossible for the Iranian government to satisfy this administration and remain a government, although this administration will immediately deny that.

Every time it appears something is going to work out with the Soviet Union, or whatever, we pull the rug out from the negotiators. Because we don't want negotiation. We don't want to solve the problem. We want regime change. Somehow this administration has got it in its head that it has the right to tell other governments to step aside for people we like better. That is wrong.

We tried it with Mosaddegh and put in the Shah and we are back at it again. What we should do instead is to call their bluff and let them save face at the same time. If they say they want nuclear energy, we should say, okay, if it is nuclear energy you want, you won't mind having wall-to-wall U.N. inspectors watching every move you make to keep people from getting the wrong idea.

We make sure that they can't build bombs and let them have what they are entitled to under the NPT: civilian energy. We must quit making the leaders more popular. And we are doing it by making them the guys who stand up to the U.S. We must quit acting like we are going to invade any country that has the wrong regime.

If we attack Iran, as I fear we are on a course to do, we will unleash a hell unlike anything this region has seen. Iran is not Iraq. It has not been under sanctions for 10 years. It has not been bombed flat by the Gulf War. It is a strong nation with weapons. We will make ourselves once again less safe if we attack them.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has now been told on this floor, in public, on the record. The President will come here in about 6 or 8 or 9 months and give us a State of the Union. If he has taken us into a war in Iran, he will deserve what happens.

This country does not need another war. We have already proven the failure of that in Iraq; and because they won't change their mind, they keep doing the same thing over and over again. And now there is an election coming up. The 2006 election is coming

and they want to distract us. That is why they are leading us towards Iran.

IRAN IS A TERRORIST STATE

(Mr. BURTON Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Iran, as my colleague leaves the floor, is a terrorist state. They are trying to develop nuclear weapons, and the world and the United States cannot tolerate that. We will rue the day if we allow them to go forward with their nuclear weapons program. We will try diplomatic means, we will try economic sanctions, we will try anything to stop them; but we cannot allow them to build a nuclear capability, because they are a known terrorist state, period.

And I want to say one more thing about my colleague's comments about weapons of mass destruction not being found in Iraq. Many people thought that Iraq sent those weapons out of the country. Well, one of our special ops organizations in the last two or three days found 800 canisters, 800 canisters, of chemical weapons, the type that was used to kill the Kurds, 10,000 women and children, Kurdish children, during the regime of Saddam Hussein, and also the kinds of weapons that were used in the Iran-Iraq war.

So saying there were no weapons of mass destruction, when we have actually found 800 canisters in just the last few days, proves that that is not correct.

TIME FOR THE IRAQI PEOPLE TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER THEIR POLITICAL DESTINY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the Iraq war is now in its 4th year, and I, like many of my colleagues and millions of my fellow citizens, are troubled about the direction the conflict is taking.

I have been to Iraq three times to visit our troops there, and I have spent time with our wounded here and in Germany. They have done everything we have asked of them, and they have done it magnificently. While we have a moral obligation to do whatever we can to avoid having Iraq spiral into an all-out civil war, now is the time for the Iraqis themselves to decide if they wish to be one country. And, Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to take steps that will ensure that 2006 is a year of significant transition to full sovereignty for the people of Iraq.

This is a conflict that has come to grief in many ways. In the fall of 2002, I voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq because of the threat that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, and because I was concerned that he had an